

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves to serve personal and/or corporate gain.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others thus providing an unfair and unbalanced view. Far too many people lead far too busy lives to take the time to read about and research the candidates and the issues on the table. They rely on local news coverage. If the coverage is presented with bias, then this is all they hear, and thus they are unable to make a decision based on truth. They are in short being told what to believe, and the dictators are dictating what best serves their interests. Where is the democracy in that? During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time. It's unfair and undemocratic and unpatriotic and downright reprehensible.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast serious doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions demonstrate that they do not. Their actions also show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard.

Thank you.

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